

2-3 | W4

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 4

Bible Story: Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Bottom Line: Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

Prelude: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections from God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Don't Sink the Ship (K–1st grade), Shipwrecked! (2nd–3rd grade); Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Just Keep Dancing (K–1st grade), Prayer Bottle (2nd–3rd grade); Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Which Island? (K–1st grade), Story Verse (2nd–3rd grade); Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

Conversation Starter

How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

Bottom Line

Don't give up on God when bad things happen.

Monthly Memory Verse

Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up. • Galatians 6:9 NIV







5 min

Social

5 min

23 Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

	Offering container	1
	Words in the Waves" Activity Page, one for every three kids	4
	Paper, one piece for every three kids	1
	Magnifying glasses, one for every three kids	2
	Coloring supplies	Several
	EveryChild Supplies Highlighters	Several



- For kids who may have trouble with the visual search, work with them one-on-one and point to the area where a word is hidden, letting them "discover" it.
- Use a highlighter to color over the hidden words to make them pop for kids who need extra visual support.

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print "Words in the Waves" on paper, one for every three kids.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Group kids together in threes and give each group a "Words in the Waves" Activity Page and a magnifying glass.
- Explain that there are words of hope and encouragement hidden in the stormy waves on the paper.
- Challenge the kids to use their magnifying glasses to search for the hidden words.
- Ask kids to circle each word they find ("Hope," "God," "Jesus," "Love"). Encourage them to find as many words as they can.
- Read the words out loud and point to where each word is on the page.

What You Say:

"Great job being detectives! Even when the picture looked like a big, stormy storm, there were good words hidden inside. It's like that in life too. In our true story from the Bible today, a man named Paul was in a real-life, giant storm! But even in the storm, he was looking for God. Let's go find out what happened!"







5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

23 – Shipwrecked! | Made to Explore

What You Need

 Bible	1
 Plastic tablecloth	1
 Large, clear plastic bin	1
 Water	1
 Unopened cans of regular soda	3
 Unopened cans of diet soda	3

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Spread the tablecloth on the floor.
- Fill the bin halfway with water and place it in the middle of the tablecloth.
- Place the cans of soda nearby.

During the Activity:

- Open your Bible and show the kids where the Bible Story is. (Acts 27–28:10)
- Review the main ideas of the story with these main points:
 - Paul was traveling by ship to Rome to stand trial because he was telling people about Jesus.
 - Wintertime travel by boat is really difficult, and the ship was battered by huge storms!
 - The people on board tried everything they could to survive the storm.
 - But God sent an angel to visit Paul and told him that everyone was going to live.
 - Paul trusted what God had told him, and tried to get everyone on board to trust in God and in what He said too.
 - The ship ran aground on an island called Malta. But everyone on board was saved, just like God had said.
 - On the island, Paul was able to heal a lot of people through God's power, and the people of Malta were kind to the sailors as they journeyed on!
- Gather the kids around the bin of water.
- Hold up a can of regular soda and a can of diet soda. Ask the kids if they look the same or different. (*Let the kids answer.*)
- Say, "Let's see what happens when we put them in the water. Do you think they will sink or float?" (*Let the kids answer.*)
- Let a kid gently place a can of regular soda into the water. It should sink.
- Let another kid gently place a can of diet soda into the water. It should float.
- Let the kids experiment with the different cans.

What You Say:

"Wow, that is so strange, isn't it? Even though they look the same, one can sinks, and one can floats! In today's true story from the Bible, Paul was on a ship when the winds became as strong as a hurricane! The ship was driven along, tossed on the waves. The storm raged for many days, and the sailors feared it would break apart. The crew even threw supplies overboard to lighten the load. Everyone lost hope. Everyone but Paul, because Paul trusted God and what He had said. Paul knew that God would be faithful.

"As the gray sky finally grew light in the morning, they could see a sandy beach ahead! But before the ship reached shore, it ran aground on a sandbar and began to break up. The commander ordered those who could swim to jump overboard and the others to hold onto pieces of wreckage. Somehow, every one of the 276 people on board made it safely to shore, just as God had said!

"The people of Malta welcomed the shipwrecked travelers, including the prisoners, and made a fire to warm them. But there was more danger ahead of them! Even through it all, Paul was able to do powerful things in Malta. He even healed every sick person on the island through God's power. God healed all of the people who were sick!

"Over and over, through every difficulty he faced, Paul chose to keep trusting God. He didn't give up because he knew God is good and He would do what He said He would. Even when bad things happen, God is still with us. Remember, **[Bottom Line] don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"




5 min

Application Activity

5 min

23 – Prayer Bottle | Made to Move

What You Need

-  Clear plastic bottles with lids 1
-  Blue paper, one piece for every three kids 1
-  Writing supplies, several 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut blue paper into one-inch strips, three per kid.

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a plastic bottle and three strips of blue paper.
- Tell the kids that the blue paper is like the water in the stormy sea from our Bible Story.
- Ask them to think about something that makes them feel scared or worried—like a storm in their life.
- Help them draw a picture of that worry on a blue strip of paper.
- Instruct the kids to roll up their “worry” papers and put them inside their bottles.
- Secure the lids.
- Let them shake their bottles and watch their worries tumble around in the “storm.”

What You Say:

“Sometimes our worries can feel like they’re tumbling all around inside of us, just like in these bottles. But Paul’s story reminds us that even in a big storm, God is in control. We can give our worries to Him. **[Bottom Line] Don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**

“So what does it look like not to give up on God? When you feel like it’s just too hard and you don’t see what God’s up to, choose to talk to God anyway. Tell Him how you feel. You can say, ‘God, this is tough. I don’t get it! I really need Your help right now.’

“God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don’t get to see that right away. And He will go with you through every hard thing you face. So, call out to Him when you need help, and trust that He is with you in the storm. **[Bottom Line] Don’t give up on God when bad things happen.**”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

23 – Stormy Verse | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies*

What You Need

 Bibles

1

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give every kid a Bible and direct them to look up Galatians 6:9.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

Finding verses for 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

- Read the verse aloud to the group.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Tell the kids you're going to make a "sound storm" together while you say the verse.
- Assign each kid a storm sound to make with their body.
 - Some kids can rub their hands together to make a "wind" sound.
 - Some kids can snap their fingers to make a "raindrop" sound.
 - Some kids can gently tap the table or floor to make a "pitter-patter" sound.
 - Some kids can clap every once in a while to make a "thunder" sound.
- Practice making the storm sounds all together, starting quietly and gradually getting louder.
- Once the storm is going, say the Memory Verse loudly over the sounds: "Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up. —Galatians 6:9!"
- Try it a few times, letting the storm get quiet and then loud again.

What You Say:

"Great job making that storm! Even when the storm was loud, we could still hear the truth from God's Word. Over and over, through every difficulty he faced, Paul chose to keep trusting God and what God said. You can do the same thing! When life feels stormy and hard, you can remember God's truth, like our Memory Verse. Let the truth be loud in your heart. Our Memory Verse can help us remember not to give up. **[Bottom Line] Don't give up on God when bad things happen."**





5 min

Prayer

5 min

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect

What You Need

 Plastic tablecloth	1
 Large, plastic bowl	1
 Water	1
 Pom-poms	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Spread out the tablecloth on the floor.
- Fill the bowl halfway with water and place it in the middle of the tablecloth.

During the Activity:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle with the bowl of water in the middle.
- Give each kid a pom-pom.
- Ask kids to think of something that feels hard for them to do or something they're thinking about giving up on.
- Go around the circle, and invite each kid to share what their hard thing is.
- After they share, have them gently drop their pom-pom into the bowl of water.
- Point out how all the pom-poms are floating on top of the water.

What You Say:

"Look at all our pom-poms floating in the water! Even when we have hard things to do, God helps us stay afloat. He helps us keep going. God loves it when we talk to Him—even when we're frustrated or mad. So stay with it. Keep talking to God. Keep listening. And you'll find that you can face the hard things and make it to the other side because God is with you, no matter what. Let's pray and ask God to help us with our hard things this week."

Prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for being with us when things are hard. Please help [name a few of the hard things the kids mentioned]. Help us to remember Paul's story and not give up. We know that You're always with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

[As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to ask the Holy Spirit to help them keep going when things get tough.]

Getting Ready | 23

Small Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL:

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Offering container, one per Small Group
- "Words in the Waves" Activity Page, one for every three kids
- Paper, one piece for every three kids
- Magnifying glasses, one for every three kids
- Coloring supplies, several per Small Group

EveryChild Supplies

- *Highlighters*

What You Do:

- Print "Words in the Waves" on paper, one for every three kids.

GROUPS:

Choose as many of these activities as you like.

1. Shipwrecked!

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Bible, one per Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Large, clear plastic bin, one per Small Group
- Water, one per Small Group
- Unopened cans of regular soda, three per Small Group
- Unopened cans of diet soda, three per Small Group

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Spread the tablecloth on the floor.
- Fill the bin halfway with water and place it in the middle of the tablecloth.
- Place the cans of soda nearby.

2. Prayer Bottle

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Clear plastic bottles with lids, one per kid
- Blue paper, one piece for every three kids
- Writing supplies, several per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Cut blue paper into one-inch strips, three per kid.

3. Stormy Verse

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Bibles, one per kid

4. Pray and Dismiss**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]****Made to Reflect****What You Need:**

- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Large, plastic bowl; one per Small Group
- Water, one per Small Group
- Pom-poms, one per kid

What You Do:

- Spread out the tablecloth on the floor.
- Fill the bowl halfway with water and place it in the middle of the tablecloth.

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue App**.

Supplies

23 Social Activity | Made to Play Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Offering container | 1 |
| 2. | Words in the Waves" Activity Page, one for every three kids | 4 |
| 3. | Paper, one piece for every three kids | 1 |
| 4. | Magnifying glasses, one for every three kids | 2 |
| 5. | Coloring supplies | Several |
| 6. | EveryChild Supplies Highlighters | Several |

23 – Shipwrecked! | Made to Explore Quantity

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Bible | 1 |
| 2. | Plastic tablecloth | 1 |
| 3. | Large, clear plastic bin | 1 |
| 4. | Water | 1 |
| 5. | Unopened cans of regular soda | 3 |
| 6. | Unopened cans of diet soda | 3 |

23 – Prayer Bottle | Made to Move Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Clear plastic bottles with lids | 1 |
| 2. | Blue paper, one piece for every three kids | 1 |
| 3. | Writing supplies, several | 1 |

23 – Stormy Verse | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies* Quantity

- | | | |
|----|--------|---|
| 1. | Bibles | 1 |
|----|--------|---|

23 – Pray and Dismiss | Made to Reflect Quantity

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | Plastic tablecloth | 1 |
| 2. | Large, plastic bowl | 1 |
| 3. | Water | 1 |
| 4. | Pom-poms | 1 |